



Minutes

Lakewood City Council

Adjourned Regular Meeting held
March 18, 2009

MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER at 5:37 p.m. by Mayor Croft in the Council Chambers at the Civic Center, 5000 Clark Avenue, Lakewood, California.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Mayor Steve Croft
Vice Mayor Todd Rogers
Council Member Diane DuBois
Council Member Joseph Esquivel
Council Member Larry Van Nostran

3.1 • REVIEW OF REFUSE COLLECTION OPTIONS

Public Works Director Lisa Rapp displayed slides and provided an overview of the existing solid waste programs and a proposal for automated collection, with an implementation plan and concerns to be addressed. The existing programs reviewed included: the contract with EDCO/BZ Disposal for commercial and residential collection, bulky item collection, and Christmas tree collection; the voluntary recycling programs like greenwaste drop-off, used battery drop-off, sharps disposal and neighborhood recycling centers; and the SERRF waste-to-energy facility. She noted that the City had been notified that the SERRF contract would be terminating on January 1, 2010, and staff was currently negotiating with the City of Long Beach regarding possible renewal. She also reviewed the contract with CR&R Materials Recovery Facility which separated recyclables and greenwaste from residential refuse. She discussed the City's compliance with diversion goals established by AB 939 and how programming may need to be modified based on factors such as changes in the SERRF agreement, landfill closures, and State modification of diversion goals.

Steve South, representing EDCO/B-Z Disposal, outlined the proposal for automated collection services. He noted that EDCO was a family-owned company and that the proposal had been tailored especially for Lakewood. The program would be a combination of automated and manual collection, with carts for automated collection provided for trash and for recyclables, and residents' own cans or bags for manual collection of greenwaste. New alternate fuel vehicles would be purchased for the automated collection, and existing trucks used for greenwaste collection. One unified payment to EDCO would cover all service costs, including tipping fees, and EDCO would guarantee that the City would meet a 50 percent diversion goal. The service contract would be structured to allow amortization of the cost of the new vehicles, and only a small number of customers would experience a change in collection days.

Responding to questions from Council Member Van Nostran, Mr. South stated that changes in State law, during the term of the contract, that impacted the diversion goals would require both parties to meet and re-visit terms.

3.1 • REVIEW OF REFUSE COLLECTION OPTIONS - Continued

Council Member Van Nostran questioned the options available for residents who had difficulty moving the automated collection carts. Mr. South stated that residents could request a 65-gallon cart in place of the 95-gallon cart and that if the smaller cart was still too heavy for a senior or disabled resident to maneuver, courtesy movement could be provided.

Marty Simonoff, EDCO/BZ, stated that items that were too large for the carts could be picked up by the Dial-A-Dump, bulky item pick-up program. He noted that awareness for Dial-A-Dump, which was available to each resident up to six times a year, was high in the community.

Responding to a question from Council Member DuBois, Ms. Rapp stated that even though the Waste Board was now using a per capita formula that was supposed to be easier to calculate, it was actually just a conversion of data and the goals were still based on percentages.

Mayor Croft determined from Mr. South that although residents would be encouraged to use their existing trash cans for greenwaste, bagged greenwaste would still be accepted, and that there would be no limit on greenwaste.

In response to a question from Council Member Van Nostran, Mr. South stated that it would take approximately five months to receive the new vehicles and carts and that it was more economical to purchase vehicles new than to convert the existing trucks for automated collection.

Mayor Croft inquired about the impact of SERRF on the proposed contract. Ms. Rapp replied that trash delivered to SERRF by EDCO would be at market rate and that if the City was able to negotiate a better price with the City of Long Beach, the discount would come directly back to the City.

Ms. Rapp confirmed for Mayor Croft that the proposed program was comparable to the cost of similar programs in surrounding cities.

Council Member DuBois asked about the fluctuating recyclable market. Ms. Rapp stated that EDCO would assume the market risk.

It was the recommendation of staff that the City Council provide direction for the finalization of terms and conditions with EDCO/BZ and develop revised contract language; present a finalized contract at a regular meeting in April; arrange for a public display of the automated carts for recycling trash at City events, starting with Earth Walk; and determine if a future rate increase would be necessary.

Council Member DuBois suggested that residents be advised through the City's website that the City Council would be considering the automated collection proposal in April.

3.1 • REVIEW OF REFUSE COLLECTION OPTIONS - Continued

Council Member Van Nostran proposed a presentation at the April 14th City Council meeting and a hearing with final decision at the April 28th meeting. Mayor Croft concurred.

Administrative Services Director Diane Perkin stated that the recommendation of staff would be that no rate increase was necessary at this time.

COUNCIL MEMBER VAN NOSTRAN MOVED AND COUNCIL MEMBER ESQUIVEL SECONDED TO APPROVE STAFF'S RECOMMENDATIONS WITH A PRESENTATION OF APRIL 14, 2009 AND COUNCIL ACTION SCHEDULED FOR APRIL 28, 2009.

Robert G. Wagner stated that making such a drastic change in service delivery during bad economic times was too risky and the timing was not right.

UPON ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION WAS APPROVED:

AYES: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Esquivel, DuBois, Van Nostran and Croft

NAYS: COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

ABSENT: COUNCIL MEMBERS: Rogers

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to be brought before the City Council, Mayor Croft adjourned the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Denise R. Hayward, CMC
City Clerk